

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor, if only one name is listed below, or an original, first and joint inventor, if plural names are listed below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled POSITIVE DISPLACEMENT SHOE AND SLAT SORTER APPARATUS AND METHOD, the specification of which was filed on September 28, 2001, as application Serial No. 09/968,742.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the Office), all information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Section 1.56.

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. Serial No. 60/236,230 filed on September 28, 2000.

U.S. Serial No. 60/278,892 filed on March 26, 2001.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the patent law firm of Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP, P.O. Box 888695, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49588-8695, telephone number 616/975-5500, facsimile number 616/975-5505, and the individual patent attorneys and patent agents at such patent law firm, namely, Daniel Van Dyke, Reg. No. 25 046; Donald S. Gardner, Reg. No. 25 975; Terence J. Linn, Reg. No. 30 283; Frederick S. Burkhart, Reg. No. 29 288; Catherine S. Collins, Reg. No. 37 599; Matthew L. Goska, Reg. No. 42 594; and Timothy A. Flory, Reg. No. 42 540, my attorney(s) or agent(s) with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in and to receive all correspondence from the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issued thereon.

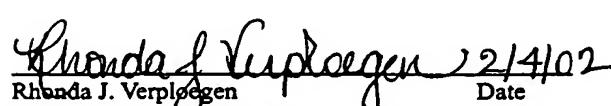
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